



February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER

Our epistle reading, 1 Corinthians 2, picks up where it left off from last week. Paul continues proclaiming “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). He wants their faith “not [to] rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God,” which is the gospel and Christ Jesus Himself (1 Cor. 2:5). It is only by the Spirit of God that we can understand the things of God (see 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 13). This closely connects to Luther’s words in his *Small Catechism*: “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel...” (see LSB 323). God the Holy Spirit has called *you* by the Gospel and given you faith to believe in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It is He who reveals to *you* the things of God, especially Jesus Christ. Praise be to God!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 578, “Thy Strong Word,” stanzas 1-3*

OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Pastor: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People: **Teach me Your paths.**

Pastor: Sanctify us in Your truth.

People: **Your Word is truth.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: When we examine our hearts and consciences,
People: we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves.

Pastor: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. We take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,
People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
People: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful.
People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 578, "Thy Strong Word," stanzas 4-6*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 58:3-10*

³ 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ "Is not this the fast that I

choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 112:1-9*

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!

People: His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Pastor: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

Pastor: It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

People: For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.

Pastor: He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

People: His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

Pastor: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;

People: his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

EPISTLE READING *1 Corinthians 2:1–16*

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The

spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 5:13–20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM

Pastor: This morning, we will reflect on the words of our epistle reading which speak about the Holy Spirit. What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

All: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

HYMN *LSB 650, “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”*

SERMON *“On what does your faith rest?” (1 Corinthians 2)*

APOSTLE’S CREED

All: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into

heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Let All the Stars in the Skies Give Praise”*

PRAYER

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For ... let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 644, “The Church’s One Foundation”*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Service adapted from Prayer and Preaching (LSB 260-267) and Corporate Confession and Absolution (LSB 290-291). Excerpt from *Luther’s Small Catechism* from LSB 323.

Family for the Week: Ken & Darlene Lampe
Trinity, Nevada - Rev. Johannes Brann

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)	Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)	Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)	Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)	Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)	Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)	Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Sara Drewianka – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing from accident)	LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer–Wolf – health and healing)	Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)	Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)	

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)	Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)	Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)	Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)	Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken–hip)	Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister–In–Law – health & healing)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)	Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)	Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)	Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)	June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)	

THIS WEEK

Sunday	February 8th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am
Monday	February 9th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study at Freistatt - 1:30 pm
Tuesday	February 10th	Pastor's Day off
Wednesday	February 11th	Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Thursday	February 12th	Confirmation - 5:30 pm
Sunday	February 15th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with Communion – 10:00 am
Monday	February 16th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study at Freistatt - 1:30 pm

Birthdays: Feb. 9-Bob Brents; Feb. 13-Sarah Davis; Feb. 14-Mitch Littler

Anniversaries: NONE

February

GREETERS:

02/08: Rob & Marlo Springer

02/15: Cheryl Lile and Gladys Bauer

02/22: Bill & Joanne Michel

USHERS:

02/08: David Lampe

02/15: Charlie Chambers

02/22: Bill Michel



Sheltering Hope is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more details.

E2 conference Sign up at:

<https://modistrictlcms.regfox.com/2026-e2-conferences>

Feb. 21: Faith Lutheran Church – Springfield